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Abergele Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1965

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH

FREDERICK P. PEACH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

which includes the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FRANK EVANS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Housing and Health Committee 1965-66

Councillor GORONWY HUGHES (Chairman).

Councillor MALDWYN PRITCHARD (Vice-Chairman).

Councillors

K. G. Bould	C. R. Little
C. Chadwick	Mrs. M. Lyons, C.C.
A. J. Easy	H. J. Manifold, C.C.
T. E. Edwards	J. T. Parry
O. A. Hughes	W. G. Peck
A. E. Jones	W. H. Smith
D. E. Jones	R. E. Williams
H. H. Jones	T. Williams
P. I. Jones	G. F. Wood
R. Lawton	

Staff of the Health Department 1965-66

Medical Officer of Health :

FREDERICK P. PEACH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector :

FRANK EVANS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Cert. Meat and Other Foods.

Cert. Smoke Inspection.

The Civic Centre,
Colwyn Bay.

To the Chairman and Members,
Health Committee of Abergele U.D.C.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Lyons and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my report on the health of the community during the year 1965.

The total number of live births during the year was 152, whilst the recorded number of deaths was 173. This is a natural decrease in the population of 21. The Registrar-General's estimate of the population for mid-1965 is 9,800. This is an increase of 800 over the mid-1964 estimated population. This real increase in the population, therefore, is due to migration into the district and is exactly that estimated for mid-1964, which means that 1,600 people have moved into and settled in Abergele since the middle of 1963.

If this trend continues, the need to provide amenities for an increase in population, particularly to meet the demands for public health, will have to be met. This is reflected in certain parts of the urban district where private housing development has been allowed to outstrip amenities such as main drainage and the disposal of sewage. This is particularly evident in the Kinnel Bay district and has given the Committee and Officers of the Health Department much concern during the year. The Committee, I know, is anxious to resolve the problem and carry out its statutory duties, but other authorities are also involved in this problem and it is hoped that they all place this matter on their priority list.

The corrected birth rate is higher than in 1964 at 25.1, the figure for 1964 being 23.2. The corrected death rate at 9.5 is lower than during 1964, when it stood at 10.4. These rates, however, are influenced by the estimated increase in population supplied by the Registrar-General. There is a substantial decrease in the infant mortality rate compared with 1964 and the previous year. During 1964 the infant mortality rate was 21.2—at 1965 it is 13.1. On the whole these statistics indicate that the public health of the area is satisfactory.

With one possible exception, the holiday caravan sites appear to have been well managed and undoubtedly provide an amenity for the increasing number of people who prefer to, or by necessity, take this kind of holiday. However, I feel that there is one serious omission from the various statutory Acts and Regulations governing the standards of these camps, and that is the non-requirement of the visitors to register as they are required to do so in an hotel

or boarding house. Communal activities are being encouraged more and more on the camp sites in the form of bingo halls, social clubs, etc., where large numbers of people congregate together. I am concerned that, not infrequently, my contemporaries in other authorities inform me that visitors from their districts to the camps are suffering from transmissible disease. Experience has now shown that it is virtually impossible in many cases to trace visitors to these establishments. The potential danger is obvious should a typhoid carrier or person incubating a serious disease such as smallpox, visit one of these camps and not be traceable by the Health Department.

In my report of 1964 I referred to the importance of good housing to the community health and I am pleased to see good progress for the Peel Street scheme, which will provide 45 housing units, and also the preparation of schemes in other parts of the district.

I wish to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the members of the Health Committee, for your guidance and help during the year. I am also indebted to fellow officials, particularly to Mr. Frank Evans, the Public Health Inspector, for his unstinted and efficient support in my work.

Yours sincerely,

F. P. PEACH,

Medical Officer of Health.

Vital Statistics

Area (in acres) of Urban District	7965
Population—	
Census (1951)	7539
Census (1961)	7996
Registrar-General's Estimate (mid-1965)	9800
Number of Inhabited Houses	3618
Rateable value	£470,662
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,800
Houses built by the Council in 1965	Nil
Houses built by private enterprise in 1965	253

LIVE BIRTHS—

	Male	Female	Total
Total	72	80	152
Legitimate	65	77	142
Illegitimate	7	3	10

STILL-BIRTHS Nil

DEATH OF INFANTS (under 1 year)—

Total	0	2	2
Legitimate	0	2	2
Illegitimate	0	0	0

DEATHS OF INFANTS (under 4 weeks)—

Total	0	1	1
Legitimate	0	1	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0

DEATH OF INFANTS (under 1 week) ... 0 1 1

DEATHS 71 102 173

RATES—

Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)—

(a) Crude	15.5
(b) Corrected	25.1
Comparability figure for births	1.62
Illegitimate Birth Rate (per cent of live births)	6.6
Still-birth rate (per 1,000 total births and still-birth) ...	Nil

Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 births)—

Total	13.1
Legitimate	14.08
Illegitimate	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 births)	6.6
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 births)	6.6
Peri-natal Mortality Rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live & still-births)	6.6
Maternal Mortality Rate	Nil
Death Rate—	
(a) Crude	17.6
(b) Corrected	9.5
Comparability factor for deaths	0.54

The following table shows the vital statistics for the past eight years :

	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Population	7350	7490	7630	7920	7930	8200	9000	9800
Births	84	107	118	104	136	130	141	152
Birth Rate	12.5	14.2	15.4	13.3	17.1	15.4	15.6	15.5
Still-births	3	2	1	4	2	3	1	Nil
Still-birth rate	0.4	0.25	0.12	*37	15.2	22.5	7.1	Nil
Infant Deaths	1	2	1	3	5	3	3	2
Infant Mortality Rate	11.9	18.7	8.4	28.8	36.7	23	21.2	13.1
Deaths	104	144	116	114	143	145	149	173
Death Rate	11.4	15.5	16.9	14.4	18.0	17.8	16.6	17.6

*Calculated as still-births per 1,000 births and still-births.

The ages at which occurred were :—

Years	Male	Female	Total
0—1	0	2	2
1—4	1	0	1
5—9	1	0	1
10—14	1	1	2
15—24	1	0	1
25—34	1	0	1
35—44	0	7	7
45—54	2	9	11
55—64	14	10	24
Over 65	50	73	123
	71	102	173

The causes of death at different periods of life were :

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Ages											
					1 year	5 years	15 years	25 years	35 years	45 years	55 years	65 years	75 years and over			
3. Syphilitic Disease	M	2														2
	F															
6. Meningococcal infections	M															
	F	1	1													
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	M															
	F	2			1											1
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	M	3														
	F															
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	M	6														
	F	2														
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast	M															
	F	5														
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	F	2														
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	M	5														
	F	17														
16. Diabetes	M															
	F	1														
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	M	14														
	F	23														
18. Coronary disease, Angina	M	16														
	F	15														
19. Hypertension with heart disease	M	1														
	F	2														
20. Other heart disease	M	8														
	F	9														
21. Other circulatory disease	M	2														
	F	3														
23. Pneumonia	M	2														
	F	1														
24. Bronchitis	M	4														
	F	4														
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	M															
	F	2														
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	M	1														
	F															
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	M															
	F	1														
31. Congenital malformations	M	1														
	F	1	1			1										
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	M	1														
	F	7														
33. Motor vehicle accidents	M	2					1	1								
	F	1														
34. All other accidents	M	3			1	1										
	F	1														
35. Suicide	M															
	F	2														
Total all causes	M	71			1	2	1	1			2	13	24	27		
	F	102	1	1		1				4	13	11	25	46		
Combined Total		173														

Diseases of the cardiovascular system accounted for 93 deaths, all of them in the 35-plus age group, the incidence increasing with age. Coronary artery disease accounted for 31 of these deaths. The second largest group causing death was malignant disease, again affecting the 35-plus group, with cancer of the lung accounting for 8 deaths, the highest number of specific malignant lesions. This is unfortunate, as cancer of the lung is a preventable disease if only people would refrain from smoking cigarettes.

Of the three infant deaths, one was due to congenital malformation, one to meningitis, and the third was associated with accident.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area

1. BACTERIAL :

I am indebted to Dr. Kingsley Smith, of the Public Health Laboratory, Conway, for his assistance during the year. The work of the Public Laboratory is closely linked with that of the Health Department. The co-operation between the two departments has in the past been excellent and in addition to examining suspected food stuff, water samples, etc., submitted to them, and also the examination of specimens obtained from patients, the following prophylactic and therapeutic agents are available through the Public Health Laboratory Service :

Smallpox vaccine, lymph and gamma globulin are stocked at the Public Health Laboratory, Conway.

Typhus vaccine, rabies vaccine and anthrax vaccine, for prophylactic use only, are held at the Public Health Laboratory, 126 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool (Tel. Royal 3636). Anthrax vaccine for therapeutic use is held at Fazakerley Hospital, Liverpool (Tel. Aintree 2324) (24-hour service).

Snake anti-venom and Botulinus anti-serum are held at the C. & A. Hospital, Bangor (Tel. Bangor 3321) (24-hour service).

Anti-yellow fever vaccine is obtainable at the Regional Blood Transfusion Centre, Halton Gardens, Liverpool (Tel. Central 8433), and inoculations are given by appointment only.

Anti-cholera anti-tetanus, diphtheria and whooping cough vaccines must be obtained through the usual trade channels.

Anti-vaccine for tropical snakes is held only at the Dispensary, Royal South Hants., and Southampton Hospital, Southampton (Tel. Southampton 26211) (24-hour service).

It may be noted that the issue of Gamma Globulin has increased considerably. Women who in the first three months of pregnancy develop German Measles, tend to have gravely deformed babies.

Should any woman in the early months of pregnancy be exposed to German Measles she should report this to her doctor, who may feel it wise to inject Gamma Globulin as a preventative.

2. PATHOLOGICAL AND BIOCHEMICAL :

Doctors send specimens to the Pathological Department at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Rhyl. Thus they get help in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases.

3. WATER :

(a) **Bacteriological** : During the year 40 water samples were taken by the Public Health Inspector and submitted for bacteriological examination. Such samples are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination to ensure that the water is free from dangerous organisms. All water samples taken were satisfactory.

(b) **Chemical** : This test is made to find if there are chemical contaminants in the water or oxidised materials. They give valuable information as to the type of water, the gathering ground, the state of the water mains, plumbo-solvency, etc.

4. MILK AND OTHER FOODS :

(a) **Keeping Quality** : The state of the milk before it reaches the processing plants is tested by the County Public Health Officer.

I am more interested in the state of the milk when it reaches the housewife. Milk received by consumers is sampled periodically at the Public Health Laboratory, Conway.

(b) **Contamination** : The Food and Drugs Inspector to the Denbigh County Council takes samples of milk and has them tested for adulteration.

5. FOOD AND DRUGS :

I am indebted to Mr. D. Hugh Owens, Chief Inspector under the Food and Drugs Act for Denbighshire, for the following report:

Particulars of samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act, in ABERGELE URBAN DISTRICT, during the year ended 31st December, 1965 :

Article	No. taken	Not Genuine, or	
		Genuine	Sub-standard
Milk	24	24	—
Butter	1	1	—
Bread	1	1	—
Pearl Barley	1	—	1
Ice Cream	1	1	—
Sausages	1	1	—
Whiskey	1	1	—
Gin	1	1	—
Glycerine	1	1	—
Totals	32	31	1

As will be observed from the above Table, twenty-four samples of milk and eight samples of other foods were taken in the Abergele Urban District during the year. The only sample which gave cause for complaint was a sample of pearl barley which the Analyst declared, after microscopic examination, to contain a small insect. It was found that this sample was the remaining packet of stock ordered some six months previously. The retailer was advised and cautioned as to the inadvisability of keeping this type of article in stock for any length of time. On further investigation it was found that the commodity in question came from another source outside the County, and the authorised officer for the area concerned was informed. It was later reported to me that the product concerned was immediately withdrawn from sale.

(Signed) D. HUGH OWENS,

Chief Inspector, County of Denbigh.

17 Vicarage Hill,
Wrexham.

8th March, 1966.

AMBULANCE.

The Ambulance Service in the area is administered by the Denbighshire County Council and is carried out by the use of full-time paid staff during the working day, the service then being manned by the Abergele Voluntary Ambulance Corps from 6 p.m. to 7-30 a.m. on each week-day and Bank Holidays.

During the year full-time staff conveyed 3,034 patients and covered a mileage of 25,191. The number of calls received by the Abergele Voluntary Ambulance Corps was 259, 332 patients were conveyed, and the total mileage run was 4,954. In all the members of the Voluntary Ambulance Corps spent an aggregate of 580 hours on duty.

NURSING IN THE HOME :

Two District Nurses reside in the area and attend on and treat sick persons at the request of the family doctor.

Home Helps are provided by the County Council to assist in domestic work during periods of emergency when there is sickness in the home. Applications for the assistance of a Home Help should be sent to the office of the Medical Officer of Health, Civic Centre, Colwyn Bay.

CLINICS :

Clinics are provided by the County Council. They are held as follows :

1. Child Welfare :

Pentre Mawr, Abergele, THURSDAY at 2 p.m. each week.
Beulah Schoolroom, Llanddulas : FIRST MONDAY each month at 2 p.m.

Merchandise Hall, Kinmel Bay : FIRST WEDNESDAY in each month at 2 p.m.

2. Orthopaedic :

Colwyn Bay Clinic, Nant-y-Glyn Road : Alternate THURSDAYS at 11 a.m.

3. Ophthalmic :

As required : appointments are made for an Ophthalmic Surgeon to attend at Nant-y-Glyn Clinic, Colwyn Bay.

4. Dental :

By appointment at Pentre Mawr, Aberegle.

5. Tuberculosis :

Rhyl (ordinary clinic) : Fridays 9 a.m. until noon—Royal Alexandra Hospital.

Rhyl (refill clinic) : Fridays 2 p.m. at the Royal Alexandra Hospital.

Colwyn Bay : At the West Denbighshire Hospital, Hesketh Road, 1st and 3rd Thursday at 2 p.m.

DAY NURSERIES :

There are no day nurseries in the area.

TUBERCULOSIS :

The state of the Register at the beginning and end of the year was as follows :

On Register 1-1-65		On Register 30-12-65	
Pulmonary—		Pulmonary—	
Male	30	Male	29
Female	13	Female	15
Non-Pulmonary—		Non-Pulmonary—	
Male	1	Male	1
Female	2	Female	3
<hr/>		<hr/>	
46		48	
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INFECTIOUS DISEASES :

The following table shows the incidence of Infectious Diseases notified to me during 1965 :

Cases	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and over
Non-Pulmonary T.B.	3	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
Pulmonary T.B.	5	—	—	—	2	1	2	—
Scarlet Fever	6	—	1	5	—	—	—	—
Sonne Dysentry	6	1	3	—	—	2	—	—
Whooping Cough	6	—	4	2	—	—	—	—
Measles	158	11	79	66	2	—	—	—
Totals	184	12	87	74	4	3	3	1

IMMUNISATION.

(a) Smallpox :

During the year a total of 89 persons received primary vaccination against smallpox and 10 persons were re-vaccinated. The number of persons receiving primary vaccination against smallpox is greater than last year, when it was almost double the number vaccinated during 1963. It would appear therefore that the policy of vaccinating children in the second year of life, instead of at three months of age, has in fact contributed towards a greater acceptance rate.

(b) Triple Antigen (Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough):

120 Children received a primary course of triple antigen during the year, whilst 35 received booster doses. The acceptance rate compares favourably with 1964 and previous years.

The primary course is initiated at three months of age and completed by the sixth month. Booster doses are given at 20 months and every five years from school entry.

(c) Poliomyelitis :

313 Primary courses of anti-poliomyelitis vaccine were administered during the year, whilst 443 booster doses were given. In all cases oral vaccine was used and the acceptance rate for this agent has increased compared with 1964, when 138 persons received a primary course and 95 received booster doses.

(d) B.C.G. :

All schoolchildren at 13 years of age are offered B.C.G. vaccine, but first a skin test is carried out to see whether or not each child has resistance to tuberculosis. A positive reaction to the skin test indicates that at some period a person has been exposed to tuberculosis but is not necessarily suffering from the disease. In the case of a negative reaction to the skin test, B.C.G. is offered, which when performed gives a substantial protection against the child contracting the disease at a vulnerable age.

During the year 33 pupils were skin tested, of which 30 were found to give a negative reaction. All of these children were vaccinated with B.C.G. In the case of the three children who gave a positive reaction to the skin test, a full investigation was carried out to ascertain why a positive reaction occurred.

WATER :

I am indebted to Mr. J. Round, Engineer and Manager to the West Denbighshire and West Flintshire Water Board at Rhyl, for the following report on the water supplied to the area :

On the 1st April, 1956, thirteen Water Undertakings, including those of the Rhyl Urban District Council and the Abergele Urban District Council, were transferred to the West Denbighshire and West Flintshire Water Board, and the supply to the whole of Abergele Urban District is now under the control of the Board.

Abergele Supply (except Llanddulas) :

The Urban District, except Llanddulas, is supplied from the works which formerly belonged to Rhyl U.D.C. The direct source of supply is a gathering ground in the Parish of Llanefydd. This gathering ground has an area of 900 acres and an average rainfall of 30.27 inches. The water is stored in two impounding

reservoirs—Plas Uchaf (storage capacity 50 million gallons) and Dolwen (48 million gallons). This source is supplemented, except during very wet periods, by pumping water from the River Aled into Plas Uchaf Reservoir. In dry weather, an adequate flow in the River Aled is maintained by releasing water from two other impounding reservoirs—Llyn Aled (375 million gallons) and Aled Isaf (270 million gallons), situated on the Denbigh Moors, near Llansannan.

The water is chlorinated at a dosage of about 1 part per million as it leaves Plas Uchaf Reservoir, and is treated at Glascoed Filter Station by pressure filters of the air scour type using sulphate of alumina as a coagulant and sodium carbonate for pH correction. 0.5 parts per million of chlorine are added after filtration for final sterilization of the water.

The annual rainfall on the Llanefydd gathering ground was 37.51 inches in 1965 compared with the long term average of 30.27 inches.

Consumption of water in Abergele (except Llanddulas) during 1965 (estimated) :

	Total monthly consumption	Average daily consumption
January	13,125,000 gallons	423,000 gallons
February	11,958,000 gallons	427,000 gallons
March	13,762,000 gallons	444,000 gallons
April	13,581,000 gallons	453,000 gallons
May	14,805,000 gallons	478,000 gallons
June	16,535,000 gallons	551,000 gallons
July	17,521,000 gallons	565,000 gallons
August	17,572,000 gallons	567,000 gallons
September	14,510,000 gallons	484,000 gallons
October	13,394,000 gallons	432,000 gallons
November	12,542,000 gallons	418,000 gallons
December	13,336,000 gallons	430,000 gallons

Year's Total 172,641,000

Bacteriological Tests of Treated Water :

Number of samples sent to Public Health Laboratory, Conway 96

Number returned as Class I (Satisfactory) 94

Chemical Analysis :

The following chemical analysis was made by the Counties Public Health Laboratory, London, in February, 1965 :—

Chemical results in parts per million

Appearance : Bright with a few particles.

Turbidity (A.P.H.A. units)	Less than 3
Colour (Hazen)	6
Odour	Nil
pH	7.2
Free Carbon Dioxide	5
Electric Conductivity	220
Dissolved Solids dried at 180° C.	145
Chlorine present as Chloride	24
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	35
Hardness	75
Carbonate	35
Non-carbonate	40
Nitrate Nitrogen	3.3
Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen*	0.02
Oxygen Absorbed	0.50
Albuminoid Nitrogen*	0.06
Residual Chlorine	0.06
Metals : Iron, Zinc, Copper, Lead and Manganese	Absent

* To convert to Ammonia multiply by 1.21

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is fairly soft in character and contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents. It shows only a trace of colour and is of very satisfactory organic quality.

From the aspect of the chemical analysis these results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

Llanddulas Supply :

Llanddulas is supplied from works formerly belonging to Abergele Urban District Council. The source of supply is a small impounding reservoir Glyn Lws (capacity 2.5 million gallons). The water is treated by sludge blanket sedimentation, pressure filtration,

pH correction and chlorination. The source of supply is unreliable and additional supplies have to be brought into Llanddulas from other sources in dry weather. The treatment plant is complex and requires excessive supervision and maintenance in relation to its out-put. This supply is being replaced by a permanent supply from the Llyn Conwy Regional Water Supply Scheme during 1966. Statistics given below relate only to the period during which the Board has been in control.

Water supplied to Llanddulas from Glyn Lws :

	Total monthly consumption	Average daily consumption during 1965
April	1,501,000 gallons	50,000 gallons
May	1,463,000 gallons	47,000 gallons
June	1,542,000 gallons	51,000 gallons
July	1,584,000 gallons	51,000 gallons
August	1,590,000 gallons	51,000 gallons
September	1,389,000 gallons	46,000 gallons
October	1,344,000 gallons	43,000 gallons
November	1,295,000 gallons	43,000 gallons
December	1,315,000 gallons	42,000 gallons
Total (9 months)	13,023,000	

New Works :

A new 8" main from St. George to Abergele was laid in 1965. This has removed the supply difficulties previously experienced in the higher parts of the town. Approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles of 8" main are to be laid in 1966 to enable Llanddulas to be supplied from Llyn Conwy, and major works are proposed to provide an additional 3 million gallons per day from Glascoed Filter Station. This is necessary to meet the future needs of Abergele, Rhyl and Prestatyn.

(Signed) J. ROUND,
Engineer and Manager.

Annual Report of the Public Health Inspector for the Year 1965

Table I.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

No. of complaints received and attended to	79
No. of inspections for detection of nuisances	260
No. of re-visits in connection with nuisances	211
No. of nuisances abated	44
No. of nuisances not abated, but work in hand	22
No. of Informal Notices served for the abatement of nuisance	39
No. of Formal Notices served for the abatement of nuisance	5
No. of Visits re Caravan Sites	256
No. of Visits re Tenting Sites... ..	135
No. of Inquiries re Infectious Diseases	15
No. of Visits to Slaughterhouse	465
No. of Visits to premises where food is prepared and sold ...	27
No. of Visits to Ice Cream Shops	22
No. of Samples taken of Ice Cream	10
No. of Water Samples taken	40
No. of Visits re Rodent Control	14
No. of Inspections of Factories	7
No. of Miscellaneous Visits	243
No. of Interviews	348
No. of Visits re Shops Act	20

Table II.

SANITARY DEFECTS.

No. of defective or choked drains	28
No. of defective W.C. Accommodation and Sanitary Fittings	4
No. of defects in water supply fittings	4
No. of defective roofs or chimney stacks	7
No. of defective rainwater fittings	4
No. of damp conditions of houses	2
No. of miscellaneous nuisances	40

Table III.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1.—Inspection of dwellings during the year :	
(a) Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) ...	28
(b) Number of dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
(c) Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of that referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation ...	13
2.—Number of Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence Informal Action	11
3.—Number of houses in respect of which Formal Notices Public Health Act, 1936, were served	2
4.—Demolition as a result of Informal Action :	
Number of individually unfit houses demolished by the owners	Nil
5.—Number of Demolition Orders made as a result of Formal Action	Nil
6.—Number of houses closed as a result of Formal Action ...	4
7.—Number of houses closed as a result of Informal Action	Nil
8.—Number of Certificates of Disrepair issued under the Rent Act, 1957 (Form J)	Nil
9.—Number of improvement grants made under the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 :	
(a) Discretionary	13
(b) Standard	3

Housing

The building, by private enterprise of houses and bungalows continues at a rapid rate, and during the year 1965 the number completed in our area was two hundred and fifty-three. This is an indication of the population increase of the Urban District as in the main these properties are occupied by persons moving into the area.

During the year the Council's scheme for the Peel Street area was commenced and good progress was made. When completed this scheme will provide forty-five housing units, made up of eighteen flats, twenty houses and seven bungalows. Schemes for other parts of the area are in preparation, at Llanddudias, Rhyd-y-Foel, Towyn and Bodtegwel, St. George. These schemes include dwellings for the elderly. When these new houses become available for occupation, progress can be made with the rehousing of persons living in those unfit houses which the Council have already decided to clear.

The demands which will be made for accommodation by persons displaced from unfit houses will not be unduly heavy, as the number of unfit houses suitable only for clearance is, of course, decreasing. With the completion of the clearance schemes now under consideration, the future problem will be confined to single houses or small isolated groups. In many instances of individually unfit houses, the question of their continued existence or their demolition may be decided by the amount of money the owner is prepared to spend. The future of such houses may also be affected by the fact that the owner may have vacant possession. In some cases an improvement grant enables the house to remain in occupation for a further useful period of time.

During the year sixteen improvement grants were made, thirteen being "Discretionary" grants and three being "Standard" grants. Such grants enable the modernisation of houses which lack the provision of bathrooms, and hot water services. The grants also assist in the conversion of large houses into self contained flats with modern amenities. This is a particularly useful method of overcoming the problems presented by the large, old fashioned house which is in multiple occupation. During the year a number of houses of this type were dealt with in this way.

When a house is occupied by several families, the provision of adequate domestic amenities may be a difficult problem, unless conversion into self-contained flats is carried out. Action was taken during the year, in connection with a number of houses in multiple occupation and in some cases, the problem was solved by some of the families finding other accommodation.

In many cases it has again proved a troublesome task to secure essential repairs to tenanted houses, and in one case court proceedings had to be taken.

Holiday Caravan Sites

There was no significant change during the year in the number of holiday caravans stationed on the licenced sites in the area. one site licence was issued, bringing the total to sixty nine. On these sixty nine sites there are approximately six thousand one hundred caravans and thirteen hundred chalets. All these sites are used only for holiday purposes. There are no residential caravan sites in the area.

At a small number of the larger sites there is a resident caretaker, who may live in a caravan or a chalet. When consideration was given to this matter by the Council, it was recognised that for a number of reasons, this could be desirable. There is a very small and decreasing number of persons still remaining in permanent occupation of chalets. Such persons became resident as "evacuees" during the period of the last war. The site proprietors discourage any attempt to occupy caravans and chalets outside the period permitted by the conditions imposed by the site licence. Some times enquiries are received from persons who wish to reside permanently in a caravan but they are informed that there is no accommodation for them in this area. Sometimes we have discovered cases of unauthorised residential use of a caravan, and where appropriate the County Planning Authority have taken enforcement proceedings.

The Council may issue a site licence if, and only if, the applicant is entitled to the benefit of a planning permission. This prerequisite necessarily results in close contact being maintained with the Officers at the County Planning Department. "Existing use right" claims often mean much investigation and consultation. Similarly appeals against refusals of applications for planning permission, and applications for determination under Section 43 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1962, often involve lengthy discussions.

A caravan site is defined in the 1960 Act as "land on which a caravan is stationed for the purposes of human habitation and land which is used in conjunction with land on which a caravan is so stationed." The inclusion of "land used in conjunction" in the definition creates difficulties in determination, and can complicate what could otherwise be resolved by considering only accurately recorded facts.

There are ten sets of circumstances under which a caravan site licence is not required, and I am informed that eight of these exempted circumstances also enjoy exemption from planning con-

trol. In nine of these ten cases, the Minister may, on the application of a local authority, by order, remove such exemption. This power to cancel the exemption does not unfortunately extend to the case of the caravan sited within the curtilage of a dwelling house, the use of which is " incidental to the enjoyment " of such premises. The number of " back garden " caravans in our area appears always to increase and control remains virtually impracticable.

The short term use of unlicensed sites accommodating touring caravans and more static caravans has involved observations being kept of a number of sites. Within certain limitations such use does not contravene the 1960 Act, and much time can be taken up in visits to such sites before an offence can be proved. There is in our area a demand, during the holiday season, for sites for touring caravans and this demand is not adequately met. It is not an economic proposition for the proprietor of a licensed site to reserve space for such caravans, although this is done in a few cases. It must be rather puzzling to the owner of the fourth touring caravan to be refused admission to a site on which he can see that three caravans are already stationed. These circumstances are inclined to encourage the use of foreshore land, roadside verges and other unfenced land, and this problem is not less difficult to overcome than the others to which reference has been made.

The siting of caravans occupied by gypsies and other " travellers " occasionally occurs, but it cannot be said to constitute a serious problem in our area. When the national census was taken in March, 1965, it was considered that in our area only one family should be included on the return. The results of this census show that the gypsy population of England and Wales is about 15,000, one-tenth being resident in Wales, and eighty-three gypsies being resident in the County of Denbigh. The Secretary of State, Welsh Office, is urging County Councils, in consultation with district councils, to make proposals for dealing with this problem by the provision of suitable sites. A number of Local Authorities have already provided sites and it is obvious that pressure will be brought for an increase in such provision.

The number of complaints received regarding caravan sites is very small. The demand for sites continues to exceed the number of sites which are available, and under such conditions site proprietors will not tolerate unsatisfactory caravans. Vandalism and the careless use of the communal sanitary conveniences are the items responsible for the majority of the complaints. In the case of one large chalet camp the number of complaints caused serious concern. There were two main reasons—unsatisfactory management and the close grouping of small chalets resulting in inadequate privacy. While the first reason for the complaints was capable of being overcome, the second remained unsolved.

Tented Camping Sites

During the peak of the holiday season the usual annual invasion of tented campers occurred. Licence control of the sites and the exemption from such control remain within the province of the 1936 Public Health Act. Such camping may be conducted without any licence control for forty-two consecutive days or sixty days in twelve consecutive months. Generally speaking these exempted periods are sufficiently long to enable all the tented camping to be conducted free from licence control. There is however one tented camping site licensed under the provisions of the 1936 Act, and conditions are imposed similar to those on the caravan site licences issued under the 1960 Act. The total numbers of tents on the various unlicensed sites appeared to be fewer in recent past years.

The siting of tents on foreshore land and other unfenced land presents difficulties in control.

Tented camps used by organised parties are well conducted and create no problems.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

In our area, which is growing rapidly, it is essential that the sewerage facilities be kept under constant review, and during the year the subject was frequently discussed by the Council, their Officers and Consultants, and other interested parties.

The development of the several estates in Abergele and Pensarn is creating an increasing demand on the capacities of the sewers and the outfall works at Pensarn.

The proposed scheme for Llanddulas and Rhydyfoel has been thoroughly investigated and we can only hope that an early start will be possible.

In those parts of Towyn and Kinmel Bay which are served by the sewerage scheme, isolated cases have been found where no connection to the sewer was made. These have been dealt with and the nuisance remedied.

In two areas of Towyn and Kinmel Bay which are not at present served by sewers, the problem is made difficult because of the absence of satisfactory land drainage facilities. In these areas the sewers are on the "separate" system—foul sewers and surface water sewers. Both types must be provided and the properties must have separate connections. The foul sewage scheme cannot be installed unless the surface water sewerage scheme is also provided. We are informed that the latter is dependent upon the provision of adequate land drainage. The order of events must therefore be first the land drainage scheme and then the surface water and foul sewerage schemes.

In the area bounded on the east by St. Asaph Avenue, on the south by Chester Avenue, on the west by Llugwy Road, and on the north by Cader Avenue, the conditions, particularly during a wet winter period are extremely acute. This matter was the subject of much discussion in the Council Chamber, with the Dee and Clwyd River Authority, and also with the Welsh Office. In the last five-year period no less than forty houses and bungalows and also a large factory have been built in this small area. Until such time as sewerage facilities are provided we can only hope that there will be no wet winters. The wet period at the end of 1965 was the cause of acute distress to the residents of this area. The Council is, of course, anxious to fulfill the duty imposed by Section 14 of the Public Health Act 1936 by providing the necessary sewerage facilities and the full co-operation of all other interested Authorities is of vital and urgent concern.

Major sewerage schemes are of course very costly and impose a heavy rate demand. The urgency of such major provision inevitably results in deferment of other minor but desirable schemes.

Rodent Control

The Council discharges its functions under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act by the employment, jointly with the St. Asaph and Aled Councils, of one full-time operator. The refuse tip, the sewers and other Council properties are treated regularly, and all complaints of infestation are promptly investigated.

Successful proceedings were taken in the local court with regard to an infestation at a property in Kimmel Bay. Very rarely is it necessary to take such proceedings as normally the co-operation of property owners is readily available.

Factories

The statutory return is included in this report, and again no special comment is required.

Atmospheric Pollution

Atmospheric pollution from industrial plants does not constitute a problem in our area, but contact is being maintained with H.M. Alkali Inspector in connection with one undertaking where a new plant has been installed.

Shops Act

The operation of this Act in a holiday area presents problems not normally present in other types of districts. The Council again made Orders relating to Sunday Trading which enabled additional facilities to be available for holidaymakers on eighteen Sundays.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1961

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1965 of the
Urban District of Abergele in the County of Denbigh

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961

Part 1 of the Act

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of			Occupiers prosecuted (6)
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)		
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	3	—		—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	22	4	—		—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—		—
Total	33	7	—		—

3.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found					Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Referred		By H.M. Inspector	To H.M. Inspector	
		Remedied				
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	—	—	—	—	
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	—	—	—	—	
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	—	—	—	—	
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	Nil	—	—	—	—	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	—	—	—	—	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—						
(a) Insufficient	Nil	—	—	—	—	
(b) Unsuitable or defective	Nil	—	—	—	—	
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	—	—	—	—	
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	Nil	—	—	—	—	
	Nil	—	—	—	—	

PART VIII OF THE ACT. OUTWORK.

(Sections 133 and 134)

Four persons were on the Register of Outworkers.

The Shops (Early Closing Day) Act 1965 came into operation during the year. All shopkeepers were circulated informing them that they were entitled to choose their own early closing day but that they must display a notice specifying the chosen day.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

The second annual report made under this Act was in the following terms :

Class of Premises	Number of Premises Registered during 1965	Total number of Registered Premises	Persons Employed
Offices	Nil	26	148
Retail Shops	21	72	236
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses ...	Nil	2	14
Catering establishments & canteens	3	12	146
Fuel Storage Depots	Nil	2	4
Totals	24	114	548

Of the total of 548 persons employed, 230 were male and 318 female.

It was again not practicable during the year to carry out the statutory routine inspections of offices and shops. The implementation of the Council's decision to engage an additional Public Health Inspector will enable this work to be undertaken.

Food Inspection

The total number of animals slaughtered was ten thousand, nine hundred and sixty-three, and this showed a reduction of five hundred and eighty-six when compared with the previous year. There was however an increase of eight hundred and thirty-nine in the number of pigs which were handled in the Slaughterhouse. All carcasses were inspected before being moved to the butchers' shops. The income from meat inspection fees for the year 1965 amounted to £360.

The presence of tuberculosis was again restricted to localised lesions in pigs. The total amount condemned on account of disease and unfitness was again a very small percentage of the total inspected. The co-operation and assistance of the Slaughterhouse employees continued to be always available.

The major part of the Urban area is supplied with water from the Rhyl Water Undertaking's Works at Llanefydd and Llan-sannan. Eight samples were taken from this supply and all were found, upon bacteriological examination, to be "Class 1." Thirty-three samples were taken from Glyn Lws supply which serves the Llanddulas and Rhydyfoel areas. Thirty-two of these samples were found to be "Class 1" on bacteriological examination, and only one sample just failed to reach this standard.

The responsible authority for all public water supplies in our area is now the West Denbighshire and West Flintshire Water Board and recently there has been discussion with the Engineer and Manager regarding complaints of discolouration of the water from the Glyn Lws supply. A sample submitted for chemical analysis showed the presence of a very small quantity—less than 0.025 part per million—of manganese. Although this was suspected, a previous chemical analysis, made as recently as February, 1963, did not show manganese to be present. The Engineer and Manager to the Water Board expressed the opinion that the discolouration is due to iron deposits in the mains and not to unsatisfactory water from the Glyn Lws Works. Considerable efforts have been made to overcome this trouble and some improvement has been achieved. It will be interesting to observe the effects of the introduction of the Llyn Conwy supply, when the Glyn Lws source has been discontinued.

During the summer season ten samples of ice-cream sold "loose," i.e., not pre-packed, were collected and submitted for bacteriological examination. Eight samples complied with Grade 1 and two with Grade 2. There are four provisional grades in relation to ice-cream, and samples which comply with Grades 1 and 2 are considered to be satisfactory.

Details of Meat Condemned at the Abattoir

BEEF :

- (a) Complete carcasses : Nil.
- (b) Part Carcase and Organs :
 - 58 Oxen—Non-Tubercular Diseases 832 lbs.

PORK :

- (a) Complete Carcasses :
 - 3—Non-Tubercular Disease 230 lbs.
- (b) Part Carcase and Organs :
 - 43 parts—Localised Tuberculosis 430 lbs.
 - 13 parts—Other diseases 41 lbs.

VEAL :

- 2 Complete Calf Carcase (Non-Tubercular Disease) 198 lbs

MUTTON AND LAMB :

- 12 Complete Sheep Carcasses 470 lbs.
- 1 Part Carcase 10 lbs.
- (Non-Tubercular Disease)

TOTAL WEIGHTS CONDEMNED 19 cwt. 2 qrs. 27 lbs.

Other Foods Condemned

Canned Fish	10 lbs.
Canned Fruit	108 lbs.
Canned Vegetables	406 lbs
Canned Milk	84 lbs.
Canned Meat	442 lbs.
Canned Soup	170 lbs.
Canned Puddings	216 lbs.
Frozen Foods	48 lbs.

TOTAL WEIGHT CONDEMNED 13 cwt. 1 qr.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	627	Nil	14	7,925	2,397	Nil
Number inspected	627	Nil	14	7,925	2,397	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci—						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	2	12	4	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	57	—	—	1	13	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	9%	—	14%	0.2%	0.7%	—
Tuberculosis only—						
Whole carcase condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	43	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	1.8%	—
Cysticercosis—						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

